

# MISHKAT -AL- MASABIH

ENGLISH TRANSLATION WITH  
EXPLANATORY NOTES

*By*

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VOLUME I



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# BOOK I.—FAITH

## CHAPTER I

### I

‘Umar b. al-Khaṭṭāb said: One day when we were with God’s messenger, a man with very white clothing and very black hair came up to us. No mark of travel was visible on him, and none of us recognised him. Sitting down beside the Prophet, leaning his knees against his, and placing his hands on his thighs, he said, “Tell me, Muḥammad, about Islām.” He replied, “Islām means that you should testify that there is no god but God and that Muḥammad is God’s messenger, that you should observe the prayer, pay the *zakāt*, fast during Ramaḍān, and make the pilgrimage to the House if you have the means to go.” He said, “You have spoken the truth.” We were surprised at his questioning him and then declaring that he spoke the truth. He said, “Now tell me about faith.” He replied, “It means that you should believe in God, His angels, His books, His apostles, and the last day, and that you should believe in the decreeing both of good and evil.” Remark- ing that he had spoken the truth, he then said, “Now tell me about doing good.” He replied, “It means that you should worship God as though you saw Him, for He sees you though you do not see Him.” He said, “Now tell me about the Hour.” He replied, “The one who is asked about it is no better informed than the one who is asking.” He said, “Then tell me about its signs.” He replied, “That a maid- servant should beget her mistress, and that you should see barefooted, naked, poor men and shepherds exalting themselves in buildings.” [‘Umar] said: He then went away, and after I had waited for a long time [the Prophet] said to me, “Do you know who the questioner was, ‘Umar?” I replied, “God and His messenger know best.” He said, “He was Gabriel who came to you to teach you your religion.”

Muslim transmitted it. Abū Huraira transmitted it with a difference containing the following: When you see the barefooted, the naked,

the deaf, the dumb as kings of the earth, as well as five things which no one but God knows. Then he recited, "God has knowledge of the Hour, and He sends down the rain . . ." (Bukhārī and Muslim.)

Ibn 'Umar reported God's messenger as saying, "Islām is based on five things: the testimony that there is no god but God and that Muḥammad is His servant and messenger, the observance of the prayer, the payment of *zakāt*, the Pilgrimage, and the fast during Ramaḍān." (Bukhārī and Muslim.)

Abū Huraira reported God's messenger as saying, "Faith has over seventy branches, the most excellent of which is the declaration that there is no god but God, and the humblest of which is the removal of what is injurious from the road. And modesty is a branch of faith." (Bukhārī and Muslim.)

'Abdallāh b. 'Amr reported God's messenger as saying, "The Muslim is he from whose tongue and hand the Muslims are safe, and the Emigrant is he who abandons what God has prohibited." This is Bukhārī's wording. Muslim has: A man asked the Prophet, "Which of the Muslims is best?" He replied, "He from whose tongue and hand the Muslims are safe."

Anas reported God's messenger as saying, "None of you believes till I am dearer to him than his father, his child, and all mankind." (Bukhārī and Muslim.)

He also reported God's messenger as saying, "There are three qualities for which anyone who is characterised by them will experience the sweetness of faith: he to whom God and His messenger are dearer than all else; he who loves a human being for God's sake alone; and he who has as great an abhorrence of returning to unbelief after God has rescued him from it as he has of being cast into hell." (Bukhārī and Muslim.)

Al-'Abbās b. 'Abd al-Muṭṭalib reported God's messenger as saying, "He who is well-pleased with God as Lord, with Islām as religion, and with Muḥammad as messenger will experience the savour of faith." Muslim transmitted it.

Abū Huraira reported God's messenger as saying, "By Him in whose hand Muḥammad's soul is, anyone of this people, Jew or Christian, who hears of me and then dies without believing in my message, will be among those who go to hell." Muslim transmitted it.

Abū Mūsā al-Ash'arī reported God's messenger as saying, "Three types will have a double reward: one of the people of the Book who believes in his prophet and believes in Muḥammad; a slave when he fulfils what is due to God and what is due to his patrons; and a man who has a slavegirl with whom he has intercourse, who gives her a good training in manners and a good education, then sets her free and marries her—he will have a double reward." (Bukhārī and Muslim.)

Ibn 'Umar reported God's messenger as saying, "I am commanded to fight with men till they testify that there is no god but God and that Muḥammad is God's messenger, observe the prayer and pay the *zakāt*. When they do that they will keep their lives and their property safe from me, except for what is due to Islām; and their reckoning will be at God's hands." (Bukhārī and Muslim, but Muslim did not mention, "except for what is due to Islām".)

Anas reported God's messenger as saying, "If anyone observes our form of prayer, faces our *qibla*, and eats what we kill, that one is a Muslim who has protection from God and His messenger; so do not betray God's protection." Bukhārī transmitted it.

Abū Huraira reported that an Arab came to the Prophet and said, "Guide me to a deed by doing which I shall enter paradise." He said, "Worship God and associate nothing with Him, observe the prescribed prayer, pay the obligatory *zakāt*, and fast during Ramaḍān." He replied, "By Him in whose hand my soul is, I shall not add anything to this, or fall short of it." Then when he turned away the Prophet said, "If anyone wishes to look at a man who will be among the people of paradise, let him look at this man." (Bukhārī and Muslim.)

Sufyān b. 'Abdallāh ath-Thaqafī reported that he said, "Messenger of God, say something about Islām concerning which I shall need to ask no one after you are gone." (A version has "anyone else".) He said, "Say, 'I believe in God', then keep to the straight path." Muslim